Bankruptcy Judge J. Rich Leonard Named Dean of Campbell Law

J. Rich Leonard, United States Bankruptcy Court Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina, has been appointed as the next dean of Campbell University’s Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law. Leonard’s appointment will begin July 15, 2013.

“Judge Leonard’s wealth of experience in judicial leadership will prove tremendously beneficial to our students and faculty,” said Campbell President Jerry Wallace. “His commitment to academic excellence and the highest standards of legal education will help shape the future of Campbell Law School for years to come and we are excited to welcome him to this new role.”

A native of Davidson County, Leonard is a 1971 graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he was a Morehead Scholar. He earned a master’s degree in education from UNC-Chapel Hill in 1973, and then earned a law degree from Yale Law School in 1976.

He has served as a United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina since 1992 and as Chief Judge from 1999 through 2006. Prior to that time, he was a United States Magistrate Judge (1981-1992) and Clerk of Court of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina (1979-1992). For more than a decade, Leonard also acted as a consultant to the U.S. Department of State to work with judiciaries in many developing countries.

Leonard’s professional associations include appointments to the Board of Governors for the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges (2008-2011); Fellow at the American College of Bankruptcy (2005-present); and leadership roles with the Wake County Bar Association and North Carolina Bar Association, among other legal organizations.

His judicial work and expertise have earned him both state and national recognition. In 2011, the American Bar Association awarded Leonard with the Robert B. Yege Award for Outstanding Contribution to Judicial Administration. He is the 1992 recipient of the Director’s Award for Outstanding Leadership in the Federal Judiciary. In 2011, he was selected as the Editor in Chief of the American Bankruptcy Law Journal.

Leonard has also been active in the classroom. He has worked as an adjunct professor for North Carolina Central University School of Law (1985-1986; 1995-1998); UNC School of Law (1994-1995); and, most recently, Campbell’s law school (2009-present). In 2012, Campbell Law’s Delta Theta Phi Fraternity presented Leonard with the Judge Robert B. Yege Award for Outstanding Contributions to Judicial Administration. He is the 1992 recipient of the Director’s Award for Outstanding Leadership in the Federal Judiciary. In 2011, he was selected as the Editor in Chief of the American Bankruptcy Law Journal.

“Although I take enormous pride in my tenure with the federal courts, I am both humbled and elated to be offered this unique opportunity,” said Leonard of the appointment. “I believe in this law school. I appreciate the focus on rigor and discipline, and the emphasis on the practical aspects of law practice.”

“We could not be more pleased to welcome Judge Rich Leonard as the next dean of Campbell Law School,” said Benjamin N. Thompson, Chair of the Campbell University Board of Trustees. “He brings a wealth of administrative experience, scholarly work and broad respect from his years of service on the federal bench. He will help take our program to the next level regionally and nationally.”
E. Wyles Johnson, Jr. was recently certified by The National Elder Law Foundation as a Certified Elder Law Attorney, and by the North Carolina Star Bar Board of Legal Specialization as a specialist in Elder Law.

CLASS OF 1983
Mimi Kirkland, granddaughter of N.C. Court of Appeals Judge Ann Marie Calabria, made her feature film debut in “Safe Haven” - the adaptation of a Nicholas Sparks novel.

CLASS OF 1987
P. Marshall Yoder was selected by his peers as a 2012 Virginia Legal Elite lawyer in Virginia Business magazine.

CLASS OF 1988
Sam Hamrick was honored as the 13th recipient of the prestigious Angie Award at a recent annual meeting of the Federal Court Clerks Association.

CLASS OF 1989
Susan Campbell recently participated in an “off-the-record” panel of top-25 law schools discussing issues associated with prospective female students.

CLASS OF 1992
Rebecca J. Britton was named to the 2013 North Carolina Super Lawyers list.

CLASS OF 1996
David G. Martin was recently selected by his peers as a part of Business North Carolina magazine’s 2013 North Carolina Legal Elite.

CLASS OF 2001
Katherine E. Fisher earned an AV Preeminent rating by Martindale-Hubble in 2012 and was also named a 2012 Top Rated Lawyer by The American Lawyer magazine.

Did You Know?
According to a recent edition of the National Jurist, Campbell Law ranks seventh in the country for smallest class sizes for first-year law students. By design, our classes are intimate and purposefully small. For the Fall 2012 semester, 50% of classes had 30 or less students, while only 10% of classes had 50 or more students.

Connect With Us!
Our alumni serve a vital role within the Campbell Law community, and are frequently called upon to assist with volunteer opportunities, recruiting, assisting with mock interviews, informing us of market opportunities, hosting events, or partnering with a student organization.

All Campbell Law alumni are also welcome to utilize our Career & Professional Development Center services, including career advising, employment search, and reciprocity.

If you are interested in connecting with the law school and serving our students, please contact Campbell Law’s Director of Alumni Relations & Annual Giving Megan West at 919.865.5875 or by email at westm@law.campbell.edu.

We welcome professional and personal updates from our alumni, and we encourage you to send photos. For more information, contact: Brandon Yopp, Director of Communications | yopp@campbell.edu | 919.865.5978
Campbell Law Team Wins South Texas Mock Trial Challenge

Campbell Law School was the winner of one of the nation’s most prestigious mock trial competitions in late March as Michael Hedgepeth, Jessica Burgess, Philip Kuhn, and Anna McNeil brought home a national championship by winning the South Texas Mock Trial Challenge in Houston, Texas. Hedgepeth and Burgess tried both sides of the case as lawyers throughout competition, while Kuhn, McNeil and South Texas student Lena Laurenzo served as witnesses en route to collecting the Treece-O’Quinn Trophy as competition champions.

In addition to the team title, Burgess collected two individual honors. After the first three rounds, she was honored as one of the top-10 most outstanding advocates at the competition out of a field of 176 student competitors. At the conclusion of the championship trial, she was also presented the Laminack, Pirtle, & Martines Trophy as the best advocate in the championship round of the competition.

This year’s South Texas Mock Trial Challenge included numerous litigation components. Competitors were required to draft and submit a scored trial brief, review and incorporate medical records discovery production, and call medical experts. Kuhn, Editor-in-Chief of the Campbell Law Review, led the trial brief drafting effort for the team and second-year student McNeil acted as multiple witnesses in preparation for the competition.

Campbell Law Director of Advocacy & Assistant Professor of Law Dan Tilly and third-year Andrew Shores coached the team, Campbell Law Professor Jean Cary was also instrumental in providing the students with a strong foundation in family law and directly assisted in formulating the case theory for the trial.

As the largest invitational trial competition in the country, the South Texas Mock Trial Challenge hosts 44 teams from across the nation. Most competing schools opt to send their very best advocates, many of whom competed at other national competitions this spring.

Teams from Stetson, Temple, Maryland, and Campbell Law – a who’s who among the nation’s top advocacy programs this year – comprised the Final Four at the competition, with Campbell Law topping Stetson in the finale.

Gooding Awarded Susie Sharp Inn of Court Scholarship

Third-year Campbell Law student Dorothy Gooding has been selected to receive a scholarship from the Susie Sharp Inn of Court, as announced at the Inn’s meeting on March 13. Gooding was previously invited to join the Inn as a student member.

The Inn annually awards a scholarship to a student member from each of its member law schools, including Campbell Law.

“My student membership in the Susie Sharp Inn of Court has provided me with an invaluable opportunity to network with members of the legal profession, as well as gain insight into issues I may face when I begin practicing,” said Gooding. “I am extremely grateful to the Inn for this scholarship, and I hope to do my part in advancing the legal profession with the tools I have learned from my participation with the group.”

A group of prominent Triangle judges and attorneys, the Susie Sharp Inn of Court meets six times each year for dinner and a one-hour, continuing legal education program. The purpose of the organization is to promote and enhance professionalism in all disciplines within the North Carolina State Bar. The Inn is a creative, diverse, collegial, and congenial association of skilled attorneys dedicated to sharing their philosophies, knowledge, and experiences with each other to improve the profession.

Grades Lead State on Feb. 2013 North Carolina Bar Exam

Campbell Law School graduates led all seven North Carolina law schools in first-time and overall bar passage on the February 2013 state bar exam. First-time test takers from Campbell Law scored a 90 percent bar passage rate, while repeaters passed at a 62.50 percent clip.

The state bar passage average for first-time test takers was 63.81 percent, with a state-wide average of 44.52 percent repeaters passing.

Campbell Law does not offer a for-credit bar prep course for its students like many other schools in North Carolina, however Campbell Law does provide in-house support for those preparing for the bar. Sha Hinds-Glick, Campbell Law’s Director of Academic Support & Bar Success, leads an optional and thorough bar exam essay prep course to current students and alumni. Of the Campbell Law graduates that participated in the optional program, 100 percent of first-time test takers passed the bar exam while 75 percent of repeat takers succeeded.

The February bar exam results continue Campbell Law’s 26-year run of owning the best overall record of success on the North Carolina Bar Exam of any law school in the state. That streak was solidified last July 2012 when Campbell Law led the state with a 94.53 bar passage rate.
Campbell Law Moves into Top Tier in Latest U.S. News Rankings


The ranking is included as a part of the publication’s Best Graduate Schools 2014 guidebook.

“This is a proud day for Campbell Law and Campbell University,” said Campbell Law Interim Dean Keith Faulkner. “This ranking is further proof of the continued upward trajectory of the law school, as well as the strong foundation that has been built over time by countless faculty, staff, students and graduates since our founding in 1976.”

Campbell Law ranked high in several metrics comprising the overall rankings, including student/faculty ratio, graduates employed nine months after graduation with a full-time job lasting at least a year for which bar passage was required or a J.D. degree was an advantage, and the school’s bar passage rate.

Of the seven law schools in North Carolina, Campbell Law stands as one of four institutions ranked in the top tier.

Professor Lee Presents Paper at Univ. of London Conference

Campbell Law Associate Professor of Law Kevin Lee presented a paper at the 16th Annual Meeting of the Association for the Study of Law, Culture & the Humanities at the University of London on March 22.

Lee’s paper, Law & Religion as Aesthetic Practices, investigates the relationship between law and religion through the aesthetics of recent critical studies theories and the aesthetic thought of early Christian Neo-Platonism.

The Association for the Study of Law, Culture and the Humanities is an organization of scholars engaged in interdisciplinary, humanistically oriented legal scholarship. The Association brings together a wide range of professionals engaged in scholarship on legal history, legal theory and jurisprudence, law and cultural studies, law and literature, law and the performing arts, and legal hermeneutics.

Class Enjoys Unique Service Opportunity in Panama

The Campbell Law “Study & Service in Panama” class visited Panama for a unique service opportunity during the school’s Spring Break period, March 2-8. Led by Campbell Law Assistant Professor Lucas Osborn, nine students engaged in research, presentations, and analysis regarding Panamanian adoption, foster care, and orphan care practices, needs, and proposed legislation.

Campbell Law student George Burnette playing with an orphan in Panama

The Campbell Law team worked alongside Heart’s Cry Children’s Ministry, a non-profit organization founded by 2003 Campbell Law graduate Misty Coble Hedspeth and her husband, Matthew. Heart’s Cry was founded to create efficiencies for orphan care around the world. The organization consults with foreign governments in an effort to streamline their adoption processes and simplify their efforts in placing children into loving homes, domestically and internationally. Heart’s Cry also assists orphanages in becoming better equipped to provide for the physical, spiritual and emotional needs of the orphans in their care.

The nine students were divided into three groups, with each group charged with a separate project, including:

- Preparation of a presentation on the benefits of restorative justice to Panamanian government officials and leaders
- Drafting a research paper concerning the importance of permanency in parent-child development and how the permanency principle should inform foster care policies
- Drafting a policy handbook for orphanages with a focus on safety guidelines

In addition to the service trip, students participated in a classroom component to satisfactorily complete the 1-credit course. Classroom subject matter included:

- Introduction to international law
- Panamanian law and history
- Introduction to civil law systems
- Law and policy relating to domestic and international adoption
- Orphan and foster care law and policy

Support Campbell Law

Every gift to Campbell Law makes a difference.

Contribute online at our secure site: www.alumni.law.campbell.edu/efr

For more information about giving opportunities, contact:

Trudi Brown, Director of Development
brownt@campbell.edu / 919.865.5977